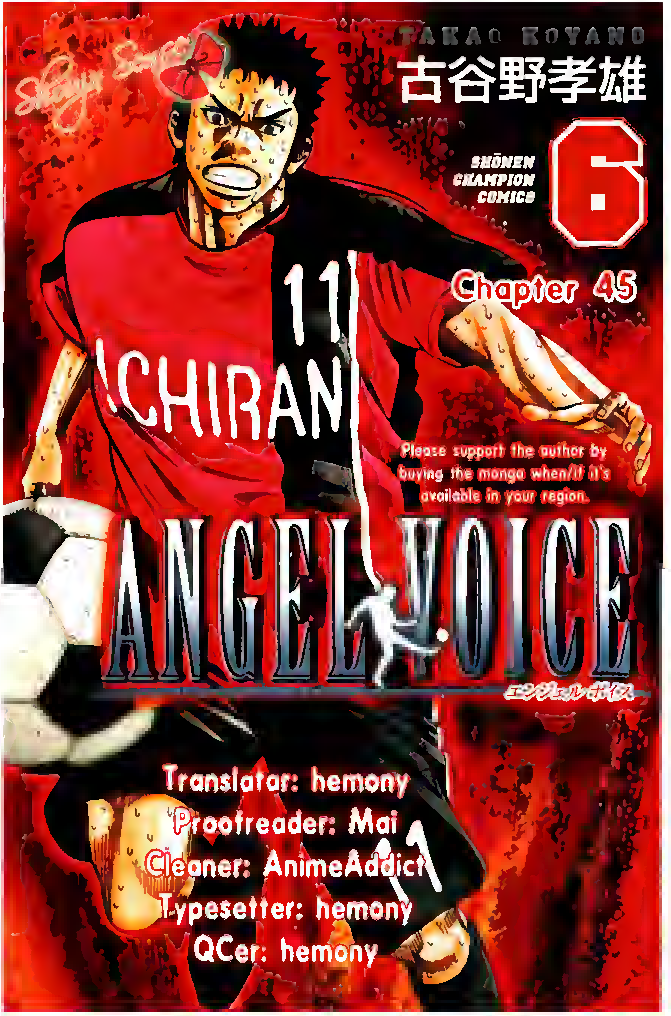
TAKAO KOYANO
古谷野孝雄
SHŌNEN CHAMPION COMICS
6
Chapter 45
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ICHIRAN
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ANGEL VOICE
エンジェルボイス
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CHAPTER 45 GAP

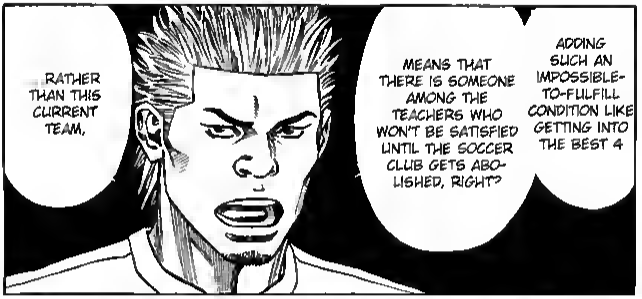
SFX TAP TAP TAP
WHAT HAPPENED, RUKA?

I NEED TO APOLOGIZE TO MAI.
I WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED TO HER TO BECOME A MANAGER AND YET THE CLUB IS AT RISK OF ABOLISHION.
MAI-CHAN?
I'M SEARCHING FOR MAI.
Abolition?
Hmm?
THEN I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO APOLOGIZE ...
SFX: TAP
GRR...
OF COURSE IT WON'T HAPPEN!! SOMETHING LIKE ABOLITION!!

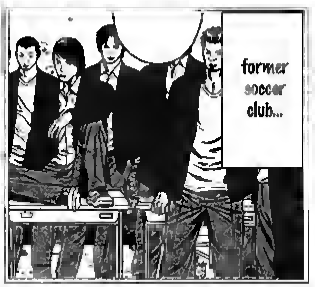
If we don't get into the best 4 in the championship preliminaries..
the club will be abolished?!
ANYWAY, CALM DOWN.
SOME GUYS ARE MISSING RIGHT NOW.
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT IN MORE DETAIL AT PRACTICE WHEN YOU ALL GATHER.

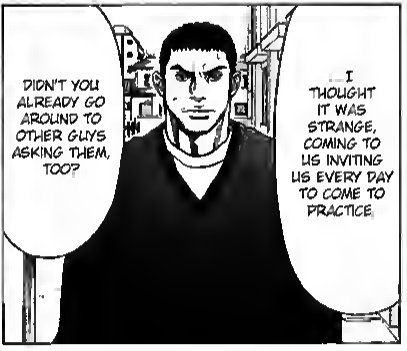
I THINK, YOU GUYS CAN DO IT.

PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY IS THERE SUCH A CONDITION.
THAT DOESN'T TELL US ANYTHING.
TO HAVE A CONDITION ON THE DURATION OF THE SOCCER CLUB EXISTENCE BY GETTING INTO THE BEST 4...
THAT'S...
OUR FAULT, RIGHT?


...RATHER THAN THIS CURRENT TEAM,
MEANS THAT THERE IS SOMEONE AMONG THE TEACHERS WHO WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL THE SOCCER CLUB GETS ABOLISHED, RIGHT?
ADDING SUCH AN IMPOSSIBLE-TO-FULFILL CONDITION LIKE GETTING INTO THE BEST 4

YOU WERE ASKED TO COME HERE TO TRANSFORM US AND RESURRECT THE SOCCER CLUB.
ISN'T THAT SO?


former soccer club...

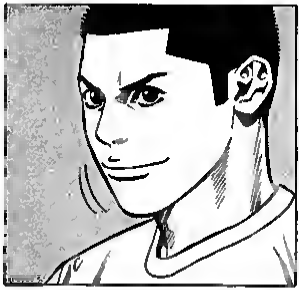

DIDN'T YOU ALREADY GO AROUND TO OTHER GUYS ASKING THEM, TOO?
...I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE, COMING TO US INVITING US EVERY DAY TO COME TO PRACTICE.

IF IT'S YOUR AIM TO REBIRTH US
THAT'S TOO UNCOOL.
HMM?
DON'T GO INVOLVING EVEN THOSE GUYS!!

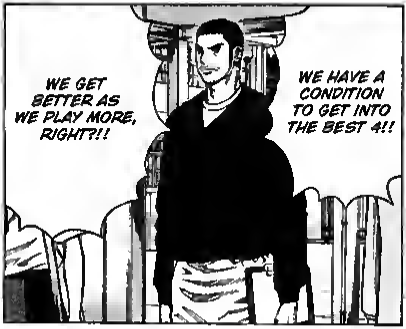
I DON'T MIND IT.
JUST WHAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IS
I ENTERED THINKING THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE ANYWAY.
I PLANNED TO TELL YOU GUYS AFTER YOU WIN THE 1ST ROUND OF PRELIMINARIES,
WHEN YOU BUILT UP YOUR CONFIDENCE ABOUT PLAYING.
THAT IF THERE WAS SUCH A CONDITION
I WISH I KNEW IT FROM THE START.

THEN
LET'S DO IT!!!

WE HAVE THE POWER TO BREAK THROUGH THE 1ST ROUND OF PRELIMINARIES?!
THAT MEANS...



I DON'T KNOW HOW FAR WE GET, BUT
LET'S TRY TO DO OUR BEST!!
ガッ
SFX: MOVE


WE GET BETTER AS WE PLAY MORE, RIGHT?!!
WE HAVE A CONDITION TO GET INTO THE BEST 4!!

IT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE THAT LOW CLASS TO WIN JUST THE 1ST ROUND, RIGHT ?!!!

87TH NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

1ST ROUND PRELIMINARIES

F BLOCK

7/24 7/27 7/30

6 浦安中央

37 松　　清

市原東陽

41 市立船山

42 美浜学園幕張

TODAY, THE 1ST ROUND OF PRELIMINARIES GROUPS WERE DECIDED.

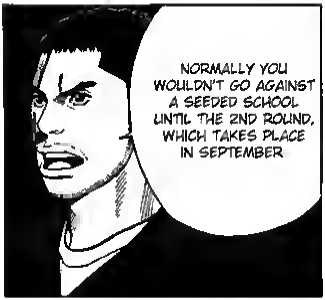
OUR 1ST MATCH OPPONENT IS MIHAMA MAKUHARI HIGH SCHOOL.

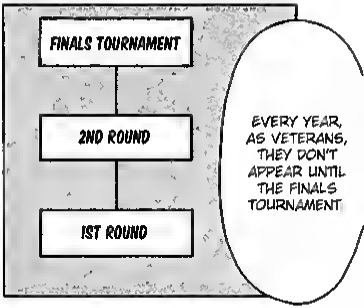
MIHAMA MAKUHARI'S MEMBERS CAUSED A SCANDAL LAST YEAR, SO FOR ONE YEAR THEY DIDN'T APPEAR IN A REGULAR GAME.

AND SO BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO SCORES, THIS YEAR THEY START THE TOURNAMENT FROM THE 1ST ROUND.

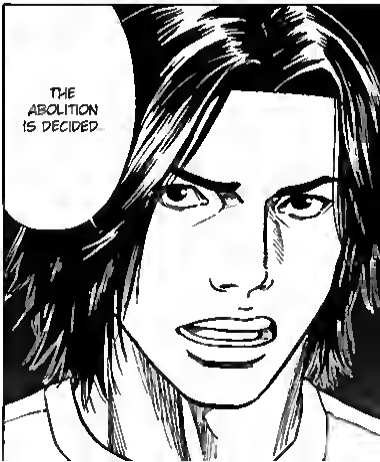
What? Makuhari?

Eh?!


NORMALLY YOU WOULDN'T GO AGAINST A SEEDED SCHOOL UNTIL THE 2ND ROUND, WHICH TAKES PLACE IN SEPTEMBER


FINALS TOURNAMENT
2ND ROUND
1ST ROUND
EVERY YEAR, AS VETERANS, THEY DON'T APPEAR UNTIL THE FINALS TOURNAMENT

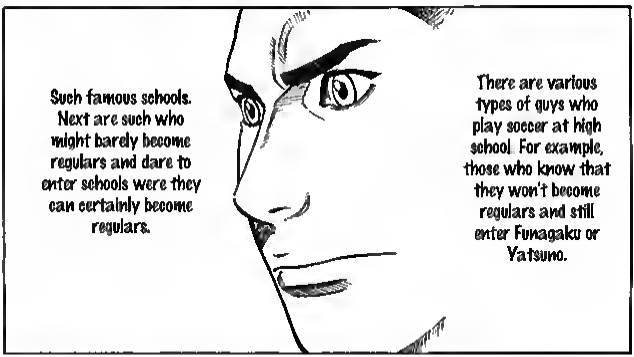
IS NOT.


THE ABOLITION IS DECIDED.

CAN'T YOU LOOK FORWARD AND WALK?
WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU FACING BACKWARDS?!
RIGHT, KOUICHI?
IF IT'S THE VETERANS THEN EVEN BETTER!!
WE'LL BEAT THEM AND FORCE OUR WAY UP!!

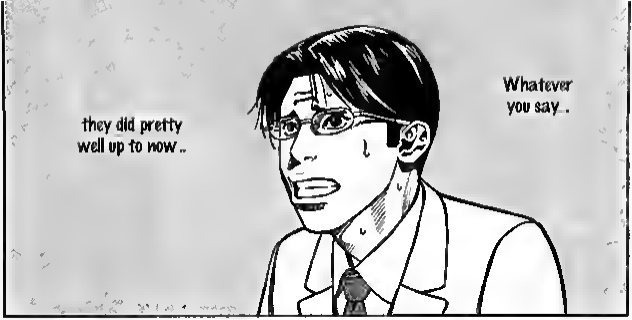
KOUICHI...?

It's im-
possible.

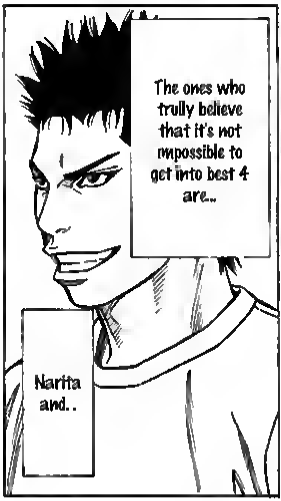

Such famous schools. Next are such who might barely become regulars and dare to enter schools were they can certainly become regulars.
There are various types of guys who play soccer at high school. For example, those who know that they won't become regulars and still enter Funagaku or Yatsuno.

Mihama Makuhari is
place that gathers such guys.

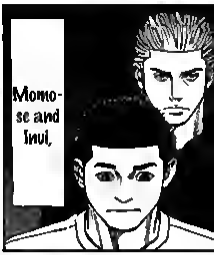
SURELY MIHAMA MAKUHARI IS STRONG!! THEY WERE OPPONENTS WE'D PLAN TO FIGHT AFTER ANOTHER THREE MONTHS OF PRACTICE!!
BUT EVEN IF WE HAVE ONLY TWO WEEKS, UNTIL NOW YOU GREW BEFORE MY EYES. YOU SHOULD BE READY FOR THEM WITH JUST A 10 MINUTE PREPARATION!!
...
1ST MATCH IS A POINT.
IF YOU CAN GET PAST MIHAMA MAKUHARI SELEC-TION, YOU'LL SURELY SEE MEANS OF ESCAPE.


they did pretty well up to now..
Whatever you say..

Not just Wakisaka and his friends, but


The ones who truly believe that it's not impossible to get into best 4 are..
Narita and..

Toko-roza-wa,

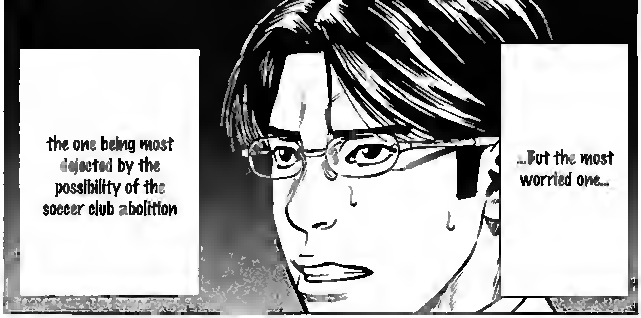

Momo-se and Inui,

Realistically I don't think they can get into the best 4.
and even Ogami.

Kuroki only
From that day on they continued to practice, but without putting many feelings into it.
The gap between Kuroki and members grew
Kuzumi... basically sensed the difference.

Shoujo Sense

FASTER!!
SFX: RUN
YOU'RE TOO SLOW IN GETTING BACK!!
WAKISAKA!! MIZUUCHI!!!
because they felt they have dragged others into this situation
Wakisaka and others probably didn't quit the club


the one being most dejected by the possibility of the soccer club abolition
...But the most worried one...

was Momose.
9

with the morale dropping and the gap between Kuroki and members not being filled.
Like this, the two remaining weeks will pass

the day of the match against Mihama Makuhari arrived.

The first match of the 1st round of preliminaries...